

POLICY ON RACKING/SHELVING SYSTEMS INSTALLED IN BUILDINGS

MECKLENBURG COUNTY CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT

BACKGROUND: The North Carolina Building Code requires that buildings and racking/shelving systems installed therein conform to seismic code requirements and other pertinent code requirements. Based on the height of materials stored on shelving and the classification of such materials, the North Carolina Fire Code classifies certain installations as **“High Pile Combustible Storage”**

To ensure Code compliance and safety, the department reviews plans on such buildings and shelving systems prior to issuance of permits for construction. Building projects of this type will follow one of the following 3 - listed paths for plan approval and permit process.

- 1) Full sealed plans submitted, reviewed and approved for the building and racking/shelving system. Permits are then issued for the building and racking/shelving system either together or separately. Drawings must include the following:
 - Appendix B
 - Commodities Letter
 - Complete Sprinkler Drawings
 - Hydraulic Design Criteria with a note indicating height to top of materials stored and distance from top of stored materials to sprinkler heads
 - Sealed drawings showing anchoring details or drawings and calculations if anchor details are not sealed in the plan submission for the project

- 2) Plans submitted, reviewed and approved for the “shell” building with “upfit permits” issued at a later date. The upfit permit may or may not include the racking/shelving permit. Plans must be reviewed and approved prior to issuance of the upfit permits (which include the racking/shelving system). Drawings must include the following:
 - Appendix B
 - Commodities Letter
 - Complete Sprinkler Drawings
 - Hydraulic Design Criteria with note indicating height to top of materials stored and distance from top of stored materials to sprinkler heads
 - Reflected Ceiling Plan
 - Egress/Floor Plan showing racking layout and exits (to scale).
 - For seismic, either provide sealed drawings with anchor details or provide anchorage calculations and drawings (if not sealed by NC registered engineer)

- 3) Racking/Shelving permit issued separately as a breakout from the upfit and require plans that include the following:
 - Appendix B (may submit original field copy of approved upfit plans or submit Appendix B from the upfit permit drawings).
 - Commodities Letter
 - Complete Sprinkler Drawings
 - Hydraulic Design Criteria with note indicating height to top of materials stored and distance from top of stored materials to sprinkler heads
 - Reflected Ceiling Plan
 - Egress Plan showing racking and locations of exits (to scale).
 - For seismic, either provide sealed drawings with anchor details or provide anchorage calculations and drawings (if not sealed by NC registered engineer)
 - Site Plan/Vicinity Map